**Handout 6**

**Don’t lose the round because you don’t know how to act during a round**

**Subtitle – Just be a decent human being while you are debating**

Most debate rounds will have one judge in each of the preliminary rounds and three to five in elimination rounds. Make sure that all judges are present before starting the round.

Be on time. Tournaments have rules about disqualifications for tardiness.

Be polite to your opponent(s) and judge(s)

Be calm during the coin flip.

Usually, it is easier on the judge if the pro sits on the left side of the judge (in the front of the room) and the con sits on the right. (Tab rooms will tell you that this cuts down on errors) Ask your judge if s/he has a preference.

If the judge doesn’t ask you – Ask him / her if any information is needed for the ballot (like – your code and name)

After the Round – If you can comfortably do so, shake your opponent’s hand.

If the tournament allows judges to announce who has won / lost – do not argue with the judge. Calmly listen to the results, do a quick thank you, and move out of the room.

Thank the judge but there is no judge in the world that wants you to shake his / her hand.

The judge keeps official time, including prep time, but most judges now expect you to keep time for yourself. Make sure that you are very clear with prep time in case a judge doesn’t agree with you.

Be civil

Don’t argue with opponents or judge(s) after the round

Don’t go over time in any of your speeches / cross-fires.

Pay attention for whole round, always flow. The judge may be watching you for your reactions and nonverbal messages.

Don’t enter a room until the judge arrives, and be very quiet in the hallways.

Don’t ever enter a room if the previous debate is still happening.

Don’t move anything in the classroom except for student desks. Some tournaments will expect you to put the desks back here you got them.

Stay away from the teacher’s desk and anything on it or in it.

Don’t erase anything on the teacher’s boards. Do not damage anything in the room.

Be kind to your judges in and out of the rounds. We need them to successfully run a tournament and they do not get paid very much.

You never know when a future judge is near you. Be on your best behavior in the halls and in the cafeteria.

You never know if a future judge is in front of you while you are complaining about his students who were in your earlier rounds – so don’t complain about ANYTHING in the halls and cafeteria.

Don’t swear because your future judge sitting at a nearby table may hear you and may not like swearing.

Your behavior reflects on your entire team. Your behavior now could impact how a judge sees another person from our team.

You should not be openly discussing what school you attend.

Remember you are representing yourself, your coach, your team, and your school. Never disrespect anyone with your errant behavior.